

-10-

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A network for hosting a service offered to users wherein said users require different types of access to  
5 said service, said network comprising:
  - a back end cluster for providing said service to the users of said network;
  - a plurality of telephony access nodes for providing said users with local access to said service via a wide  
10 area network that connects said back end cluster to said plurality of telephony access nodes; and
  - a plurality of switches, each of which is connected to one of said plurality of telephony access nodes for providing said users with access to said service.
- 15 2. A network according to claim 1 wherein said hosted service is a messaging system.
3. A network according to claim 2 wherein said  
20 messaging system is a unified messaging system.
4. A network according to claim 2 wherein said messaging system is a unified communications system.
- 25 5. A network according to claim 1 wherein one of said plurality of switches is a private branch exchange.
6. A network according to claim 1 wherein one of said plurality of switches is a key telephone system.
- 30 7. A network according to claim 2 wherein one of said plurality of switches is a private branch exchange.
8. A network according to claim 2 wherein one of said  
35 plurality of switches is a key telephone system.

-11-

9. A method of deploying a hosted service in a network, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing said service to the users of said network  
5 by means of a back end cluster; and  
providing local access to said hosted service via a wide area network that connects said back end cluster to a plurality of telephony access nodes.

10 10. A method according to claim 9 wherein said hosted service is a messaging system.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein said messaging system is a unified messaging system.

15 12. A method according to claim 10 wherein said messaging system is a unified communications system.

13. A method according to claim 9 wherein one of said  
20 plurality of switches is a private branch exchange.

14. A method according to claim 9 wherein one of said plurality of switches is a key telephone system.

25 15. A method according to claim 10 wherein one of said plurality of switches is a private branch exchange.

16. A method according to claim 10 wherein one of said plurality of switches is a key telephone system.

30

00736978-122000